



State Senator Gayle Slossberg

Representing Milford, Orange & West Haven

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On this Veterans Day, and always, I am proud to advocate for our troops and veterans. Although it is impossible to ever fully repay our brave Americans for their great courage on our behalf, the General Assembly continually works to pass legislation which properly recognizes the sacrifice made by our troops and veterans. This year, many ideas for legislation came from vets and servicemen who wrote to me directly. If you would like more information on any of the initiatives on the other side of this mailer, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I love to hear your ideas and hope you keep them coming!

With Warmest Regards,

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Coming Through for Veterans

"Dear Senator Slossberg,

I am proud of the state in which I am from... I will leave Germany for good in March 2011 and return to serve back in the United States as an Army Recruiter. In doing so, I will be able to drive my car once again and I would like nothing more than to be able to proudly drive my car with a Connecticut Veterans License Plate... I have been all over the world and the United States but I know where I am from and I know where I call home and that is Connecticut."

— SSG W. D., West Haven

In response to the sergeant's e-mail to my office, I proposed SB 367 which makes veterans' automotive license plates available to members of the armed forces or their surviving spouse. Interested service members should visit their local Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) branch for more details or visit the DMV Web site at www.ct.gov/dmv.

"Dear Senator Slossberg,

I was told that a non-medical VA ID card doesn't exist. I was intending on using this card to get the 10% discount at Lowe's and Home Depot when purchasing wood pellet fuel to heat my home with... Any help with obtaining a VA ID card would be greatly appreciated"

— R.K., Milford

As this Milford veteran points out, many businesses and organizations offer veterans' discounts. Unfortunately, proving that you qualify as a veteran can be a cumbersome process. In response to R.K.'s e-mail, I helped pass legislation that will now allow for veteran status to have a permanent place on driver's licenses and ID cards beginning January 1, 2013. The bill also extends a free lifetime pass to state parks, forests, and recreational facilities to disabled wartime veterans effective immediately.

VETERANS' PROPERTY TAXES: I have heard from many servicemen and servicewomen over the years about the logistical challenge of paying property taxes while they are serving our country overseas or out of state. This session, the General Assembly took action to ensure that no serviceman or servicewoman would return home from overseas facing penalties and interest on overdue property tax. We also gave authority to cities and towns to expand this provision and provide similar relief to the men and women serving out of state.